

Case 2544

***Corisa distincta* Fieber, 1848 (currently *Sigara (Subsigara) distincta*; Insecta, Hemiptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

Antti Jansson

Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, P. Rautatiekatu 13,
SF-00100 Helsinki, Finland

Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the water-boatman species *Corisa distincta* Fieber, 1848 by the suppression of the unused senior subjective synonym *Corixa schellebergii* Spinola, 1837.

1. When illustrating what he thought to be '*Sigara striata* Fabricius', Schelleberg (1800, Tab. XI) gave a drawing of a female specimen with hemelytral patterns typical of *Sigara (Subsigara)*.

2. Schelleberg's material is not known to exist, but Spinola (1837, p. 57) [also Spinola (1840), which is a second printing of the same book with a slightly different title] noticed that the species illustrated was not what was generally thought to be *Corixa striata* (Linnaeus, 1758), and renamed the species as *Corixa schellebergii*. In the Spinola collection, Torino Museum, this name is applied to a damaged female specimen of *Arctocorixa* sp. and a female of *Callicorixa praeusta* (Fieber, 1848), neither one thus being from the correct taxon.

3. Fieber (1848, p. 524) described *Corisa distincta* from material originating from 'Lappland, Russland, Preussen, Oesterreich, Böhmen, Sachsen, Transkaukasien'. None of the original material is said to exist, but the name has been adopted in the taxonomic literature (a list of ten representative works is held by the Secretariat) and Jansson (1986, p. 74) has designated a neotype for the species.

4. The obtuse lateral angles of the pronotum in Schelleberg's (1800) drawing reveal that *Corixa schellebergii* Spinola, 1837 and *Sigara (Subsigara) distincta* (Fieber, 1848) are conspecific (cf. Jansson, 1986, p. 74) and the former would have priority over the latter. However the name given by Spinola seems to have remained unused ever since Fieber's (1851) note about the insufficiency of the description.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *schellebergii* Spinola, 1837, as published in the binomen *Corixa schellebergii*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *distincta* Fieber, 1848, as published in the binomen *Corisa distincta* and as interpreted by the neotype designated by Jansson (1986);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology the name *schellebergii* Spinola, 1837, as published in the binomen *Corixa schellebergii* and as suppressed in (1) above.

References

- Fieber, F. X. 1848. Synopsis aller bisher in Europa entdeckten Arten der Gattung Corisa. *Nouveaux Mémoires de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou*, 21: 505–539.
- Fieber, F. X. 1851. [preprint, issue published 1852]. Species generis Corisa. *Abhandlungen der Böhmischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, 7: 213–260.
- Jansson, A. 1986. The Corixidae (Heteroptera) of Europe and some adjacent regions. *Acta Entomologica Fennica*, 47: 1–94.
- Schelleberg, J. R. 1800. *Das Geschlecht der Land und Wasserwanzen*. 32 pp. Orell, Füssli & Co., Zurich.
- Spinola, M. 1837. *Essai sur les genres d'insectes appartenants à l'ordre des Hémiptères, Lin. ou Rhyngotes, Fab. et à la section des Hétéroptères*, Dufour. 383 pp. Y. Gravier, Gênes.
- Spinola, M. 1840. *Essai sur les insectes Hémiptères, Rhyngotes, ou Hétéroptères*. 383 pp. J.-B. Ballière, Paris.